41.

The Answer of the
BERMUDA COMPANY
TO THE
Matters Complained of in the Petition of Mr. PERIENT TROTT, humbly offered to the Conſideration of the Honourable the Knights, Citezens and Burgiſſes Aſſembled in PARLIAMENT.

THE *Bermuda* Company having purchaſed the ſoyl of the Iſland, were incorporated in 1614. by the Name of the *Governour and Company of the City of* London, *for Plantation of the Summer Iſlands*; and thereby had the ſole Government committed to them, with a power to make Laws as near as might be to the Laws of *England*; being the ſame power granted to all other His Majeſties foreign Plantations; and the Company are ſtill the proprietors of the ſaid Iſlands. And if any By-Laws were made contrary to their power, or prejudicial to the Iſland (as is untruly ſuggeſted) the Company here muſt needs be the great looſers.

That no Lands have been taken away from any perſon without due proceedings and Examinaton had according to the Laws and conſtitutions of the Iſlands; neither have any Records or due Entries manifeſting any mans title to the ſame been razed or altered, nor have any perſons been admitted to any ſhares in the ſaid Iſlands, but upon evidence of their right and title to the ſame.

That the penny in the pound upon *Tobacco*, is a Tax neceſſary to ſupport the charges of the Government, (over and above the publick ſhares ſet aſide and now imployed for that purpoſe) and is duely impoſed, and for the recovery thereof, Actions at Law are brought againſt the Petitioner Mr. *Trott*, whereby the validity of the ſaid Tax will be tryed.

And if the Governour and Council there do impoſe any Aſſeſsment upon the Planters, without the conſent of the Aſſembly, it is without the knowledge of the Company, and contrary to the Known Laws of the place, and would be redreſſed upon complaint made to the Company here.

That the managing the Trade of *Tobacco* in the Companies Magazin Ships, is neceſſary for the Proprietors, ſufficient for the growth and utmoſt improvements of the Iſlands, ſatisfactory to the Planters, alwaies uſed ſince the firſt purchaſe of the Iſlands, and the only way for the preventing of frauds and oppreſſions.

As to the *Whale Fiſhing*, The Company having made a Leaſe thereof for Ninety nine years, to ſeveral Undertakers, who expended near four thouſand pound in Boats, Tackle, and other charges for carrying on the Trade, and having intruſted ſome perſons under them to manage the ſame for five years, and the ſaid Truſtees having ſome ways intereſted Mr. *Trott* therein, and the five years being expired, the ſaid Boats and Tackle were ſeized at the requeſt and for the ſaid undertakers, who are the Proprietors and owners of the ſame. And are now under the value of one hundred pound.

As to the building of Ships, If the ſame were not reſtrained, there would not be Timber left ſufficient for the neceſſary ſupply of the Iſlands.

And as to Appeals, Any perſon aggrieved may bring the ſame, unleſs where the Cauſe of Action is under the value of five pounds.

And ever ſince the granting of the ſaid Charter; the Company have endeavoured to advance the Common and Publick Intereſt of the Iſlands, and the rights of the Proprietors there. And the Iſlands are now in a more flouriſhing condition than ever they were ſince they were firſt Planted.

The Answer of the

BERMUDA COMPANY

TO THE

Matters Complained of in the Petition of Mr. Penny Trott,
humbly offered to the Consideration of the Honourable the
Knights Citizens and Burgesses assembled in PARLIAMENT.